Memorandum of Understanding

NACA-Inspired Schools Network
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
NACA-INSPIRED SCHOOLS NETWORK (NISN)
AND the UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

Subject: Scope of Engagement for Sherrell Lang (Fellow) in Partnership with The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (Entity)

1. Purpose: Fellow has committed to a partnership with the NACA-Inspired Schools Network (NISN) to, in partnership with the community of Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, explore the option of establishing a charter school.

2. NISN Fellowship Overview and Outcomes: NISN provides actively structured opportunities for Fellows to observe school operations and classrooms, create and refine work plan goals, and receive regular consultation and assessment. Fellows will engage with community members and distinguished leaders on a local, state and national level.

3. The Ute Mountain Ute NISN Fellow shall embody the Six NISN Commitments (collectively referred to as "Commitments") described as follows:

- Academic Excellence & Relevance: Student excellence in college, career, and community through culturally relevant curriculum and instructional practices.

- NISN Core Values & Culture: Embodiment of the NISN core values by reflecting and supporting the cultural diversity and perspectives of their communities. Schools will align the Core Values of their communities that best represent the community in which they serve.
  - Respect – Having concern for harmonious relationships; honoring yourself, your peers, your family, your elders, your ancestors, your teachers, your school, your community, your tribe/nation. Having

courteous regard for others' feelings and values. Respect helps people get along better with each other.

- Responsibility – We are responsible to our People: past, present and future; as well as our environment and other living things. Being responsible is a form of trustworthiness; being accountable for your words, actions, and conduct in all that you do.

- Community/Service – We belong to the NISN community as well as the communities of our neighborhoods, cities, pueblos, reservations and nations. This means that, along with rights, we have the responsibility to provide service to make our community a better place for all.

- Culture – We honor and value our own cultures and those of others. We recognize we are influenced by many cultures, including Indigenous, youth, and contemporary western cultures and are mindful in how this impacts the development of identity.

- Perseverance – Indigenous people have endured because of the perseverance and determination of those that came before. We make our ancestors proud by remaining constant to a purpose, idea or task in spite of obstacles. We engage our innate strengths and build relationships with others that support us in developing to our full potential.

- Reflection – Indigenous thinking and learning is a reflective process involving a deliberate looking inward, self-awareness and contemplation of deeper meanings. We support this reflective practice to encourage thoughtfulness, personal growth, profound learning and meaningful change.

- Community Transformation: Community designed and led schools that transform the lives of their students, families, and stakeholders while holding the transformation and engagement of the community at the center of their work.

- Reflection and Continuous Improvement: Continual deliberate reflection on, and improvement in, practices in service of their communities and mission.

- Leadership in Indigenous Education: Contributes to the creation and sustaining of a national movement for excellence in Indigenous education.

- Operating Effectiveness & Efficiency: Creation of long-lasting impact through effective and sustainable practices and use of resources.

4. The Fellow, with assistance from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the State of Colorado will be responsible for leading community discussions and interviews to determine the vision for education.

5. The Fellow, in collaboration with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the State of Colorado, will write and design the charter school application that addresses Governance, Budgeting, Curriculum, and other policies, procedures and programs that directly affect the school.

6. Upon completion and submission of the plan, the Tribal Council has authority to decide to apply for and submit the charter application to a Colorado approved authorizer.

7. Under this arrangement, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is not under any financial obligation to Sherrell Lang as a Fellow, or to NISN. Sherrell Lang will receive payment/funding as follows:

- Year One: Full-time salary and benefits from NISN
- Year Two: Full-time salary and benefits from NISN

8. Ute Mountain Ute Tribe agrees to partner with Sherrell Lang in this process and will collaboratively join Sherrell Lang and NISN in monitoring and supporting progress towards the goals of this agreement.

9. The parties agree and acknowledge that neither the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, nor any of its employees, officers, departments, enterprises, or any other entity entitled to enjoy the sovereign status of the Tribe, hereby consent to have any dispute related to this MOU adjudicated by any court, tribunal, or other adjudicative body, that such consent may only be obtained by official resolution of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council, and no such resolution exists for the purpose of this MOU.

10. Effective date: February 4, 2020

SIGNATURE
Manuel Heart, Chairman Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

SIGNATURE
Tina King-Washington, Ute Mountain Director of Education

SIGNATURE
Anpaoduta Flying Earth
NISN Acting Executive Director

SIGNATURE
Sherrell Lang
NISN Fellow